

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

It is gratefully noted by the Applicants that claims 1-3 of record are allowed by the Examiner and claims 4-25 of record are also allowable.

Claim Overview and Status

Claims 1-3 of record are allowed. Claims 4, 9, 13, 18, and 21 of record have been amended. Claim 24 of record has been canceled.

Claims 26-32 have been newly added to further define the invention.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC § 112

Claims 4-25 of record stand rejected under 35 USC § 112 as set forth in the Office Action. The above-described amendment, however, obviates the rejections.

Specifically, claims 4, 9, 13, and 18 of record have been amended to include the aspect of gettering with phosphorus-containing layer; claim 21 of record has been amended to clarify the issue of conductivity type as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim 24 of record has been canceled without disclaimer and prejudice to obviate the rejection.

The Examiner indicates that claims 4-25 are allowable. It is submitted that the amendment obviates all claims rejections and thereby claims 2-23 and 25 are in condition for allowance.

#### Newly Added Claims

Claims 26-32 have been newly added to further define use of a metal catalyst to promote crystallization of silicon and gettering of the metal catalyst by phosphorus, which are fully supported by the originally filed specification.

The newly added claims are patentable in view of the allowable claims 1-25 of record.

#### Related Application and Additional Prior-Art References

Applicants would like to bring the Examiner's attention to a copending U. S. Application No. 08/196,856, filed on February 15, 1994, which claims gettering of doped nickel with chlorine.

In addition, Applicants submit additional prior-art references, U.S. Patents No. 5,244,819, No. 5,275,851, and Japanese Patent No. 5-109737 in an accompanying Information Disclosure Statement.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that rejections to both the specification and the claims have been obviated. Therefore, the above-referenced application is now in full condition for allowance, an action of which is respectfully solicited.

If there are any other charges, or any credits, please  
apply them to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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